ABSTRACT

A client on a network is provided with auxiliary low power logic, at the network adaptor, that is always active and simulates network traffic (e.g., Ethernet format) normally sent under control of the main client system processor(s). This logic collects client status information and reports to the network manager, even when the system CPU is powered down, information which allows the network manager to exercise broader control and perform maintenance and upgrades which would otherwise require a dialog with the user and/or limit maintenance and reconfiguration of the client system to off-hours activity.